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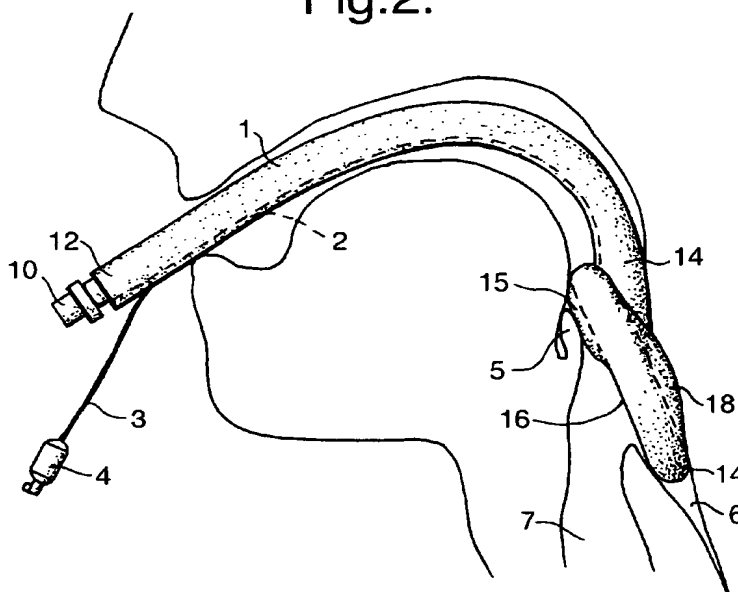
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(54) **Laryngeal mask assemblies**

(57) A laryngeal mask assembly has an inflatable cuff 13 mounted at the patient end 14 of a tube 1. The cuff 13 has a region 15 on its anterior surface 16 and a region 18 on its posterior surface 17 that expand preferentially when gas pressure is increased. The cuff 13 is inflated for insertion at low pressure such that the cuff

takes one shape and is then further inflated when positioned correctly such that the region 15 on the anterior surface 16 expands and engages the epiglottis 5 and such that the region 18 on the posterior surface 17 expands and engages the adjacent tissue, pushing the anterior surface 16 forwardly.

**Fig.2.**





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Application Number  
EP 98 30 8846

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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 8 November 1999	Examiner Zeinstra, H
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